A business visit spiced with a tour

Though M. Anthony (Tony) Burns, president of the giant Miami, Fla.,-based Ryder trucking system, was in Salt Lake City recently on business, the occasion also gave him an opportunity to introduce his executives to Temple Square.

The slender Mesquite, Nev., native — he is 5 feet 10 inches tall, but weighs only 150 pounds — joined Ryder 10 years ago when he was 32. He became president and chief operating officer five years later (see *Church News* Jan. 10, 1981), and in 1983 became chief executive officer.

M. Anthony Burns

He now leads a company that is ranked 13th in assets and 25th in revenue on *Fortune* magazine's list of the nation's 100 largest diversified service companies. His company owns 87,000 trucks and other rental vehicles, and has 24,000 employees.

Burns, his wife, and his executives — five who brought their spouses — spent two hours the morning of April 26, taking a tour of Temple Square.

The tour started with a discussion of Brigham Young and his role in the Church, and continued to the temple where a wedding party was just emerging. "Our guide talked briefly about eternal marriage as we watched," said Burns. "Then we entered the Tabernacle, the definite highlight for our group.

"They (the Ryder executives) seemed just curious at first," Burns said, but as the tour progressed comments such as "very logical" and "so well done" were heard. Everyone returned for the Tabernacle Choir concert and the "Spoken Word" April 27 after attending the Ryder-sponsored concert of the Utah Symphony the night before, Burns reported.

Though his company has grown rapidly in the past few years, Burns said he never works or travels on Sunday. He has served in three bishoprics and on two high councils. Currently, he is high priests group leader in the Cutler Ridge, Fla., Ward, and teaches the 7- to 9-year-olds in Primary. His youngest daughter, Shauna, 8, is a member of the class.

"Teaching these Primary children has been one of my great Church experiences," he said. "They are so pure and faithful. There's nothing like a child in terms of beauty."

Burns said his wife, Joyce Jordan of Heber City, Utah, loves working with children as much as he does. That probably explains why she is the stake Primary president, he added. She has been ward president of both the Young Women and the Relief Society, but somehow she always gets back to the children.

The Burns' have two other children, Jill, 18, and Mike, 17.

Church News 13 May 1984